Budget for covering 8 lakh families. However, no State-wise allocations are made.

Spending on welfare of SCs and STs

†1541. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Wil the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any direction under which it would be mandatory for all Ministries to spend 22.5 per cent of the resources at their disposal on welfare of SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government intend to consider any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No such direction has been issued.

(c) Not all Budgetary outlays of different Ministries/Departments have a direct relationship with population profile. The percentage of Budget spent on welfare of SCs and STs, therefore, varies from Department to Department. Statement No. 21 of Expenditure Budget Vol. I Budget 2007-08 summarizes the budget provisions earmarked for welfare of SCs and STs. Para No. 33 and 34 of Budget Speech 2007-08 highlights the allocations for SCs/STs.

Withdrawal of tax exemptions

1542. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to withdraw exemption of taxes to prevent misuse; and

(b) if so, the details of such withdrawals of tax exemptions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government reviews all exemptions and deductions from time to time. In the course of such periodic review, those exemptions that have outlived their utility or where the objective conditions

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.